

## **CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES**

**Wednesday, December 8, 2010**

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

### **(1) SWRCB Update**

#### **1) San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Salinity**

a) The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is planning to hold a workshop regarding the technical basis for evaluating San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objective alternatives. The workshop is scheduled for January 6-7, 2011. A public notice identifying the date and location of the workshop has been issued and is available on our website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/bay\\_delta\\_plan/water\\_quality\\_control\\_planning/docs/notice\\_snjr\\_techrpt102910.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/docs/notice_snjr_techrpt102910.pdf) At this workshop, the State Water Board does not intend to identify the precise objectives to be analyzed during the environmental review process. Instead the workshop will focus on the scientific basis and technical methodology for evaluating the objective alternatives. Accordingly, the workshop will not be the final opportunity to comment on potential objectives.

For further information on this workshop, contact Mark Gowdy at 341-5432 or [mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov)

b) As a follow up to the notice discussed above, the State Water Board released an additional notice of opportunity to provide information that was not submitted related to the Draft Technical Report on the review of and potential modifications to the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives and the program of implementation for those objectives included in the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Per the notice, written comments and other information related to the review of and potential amendments must be submitted by 12 noon on Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

The notice, along with other information concerning the State Water Board's review of the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives is posted on the State Water Board's website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta\\_plan/water\\_quality\\_control\\_planning/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/)

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Kari Kyler at (916) 445-5987 or [kkyler@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kkyler@waterboards.ca.gov).

c) On October 6, 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) submitted the Delta-Mendota Canal Recirculation Feasibility Study - Plan Formulation Report (PFR), January 2010 (Updated September 2010). The State Water Board, as part of Revised Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641), required Reclamation to evaluate the feasibility and impacts of recirculating water from the Delta-Mendota Canal into the lower San Joaquin River as a method for meeting and/or augmenting the Vernalis objectives and San Joaquin water quality objectives.

The State Water Board is reviewing the PFR and plans to have an informational item on the agenda at an upcoming Board meeting on February 1, 2011 to discuss Reclamation's findings and clarify compliance with D-1641.

For further information on the Board meeting, contact Patricia Fernandez at (916) 319-9141 or [pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov).

## 2) Modeling

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Reclamation are providing modeling assistance to the State Water Board in the following areas:

a) DWR has developed a plan to address our request for improvements to the salinity simulation performance of the DSM2 model in the southern Delta. The request was made as a follow-up to the recent CDO adopted by the Board in January (WR 2010-0002). We are evaluating the proposed plan and work has not started yet.

b) DWR is providing modeling runs to evaluate potential improvements to flows and salinity in the southern Delta associated with proposed changes to the temporary ag barriers down there (adding height and changing flap-gate operations). This is being done as part of the coordination effort between DWR and the South Delta Water Agency we requested as part of approving an emergency change petition back in the summer of 2008.

c) Reclamation is working on a scope of work to provide us with some CALSIM modeling that would evaluate possible alternative flow objectives for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis. Like item a) above this modeling support was requested as part of Order WR 2010-0002. The scope of work is still in development with Reclamation and work has not started.

d) DWR and Reclamation have received conditional approval from the State Water Board on their Feasibility Study Plan. The Feasibility Study Plan will evaluate the installation of low lift pumps at one or more of the temporary barriers and the feasibility of increasing flows in the San Joaquin River to ensure compliance with the interior

southern Delta salinity objective. A report describing the study is due to the State Water Board by March 20, 2011.

For further information on Modeling, contact Mark Gowdy at 341-5432 or [mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov)

### 3) Water Transfer Petitions

#### TRANSFER NOTICE

9/28/10, Notice issued for long-term transfer of 10,000 acre-feet of water from DWR to areas within the Westlands Water District. The petitioner requests the changes be effective from May 11, 2011 to April 30, 2027.

DWR has petitioned for temporary transfers (up to one year) similar to this long-term transfer on an annual basis since 2001 (except for 2003). The protest period for this petition ended on October 28, 2010.

The notice is available for viewing online at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/applications/transfers\\_tu\\_notices/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/)

#### TRANSFER ORDER

11/5/10, Order issued for the Consolidated Place of Use petitions submitted by DWR and Reclamation to temporarily add the Central Valley Project (CVP) place of use downstream of the Jones Pumping Plant to the State Water Project (SWP) permit and to temporarily add the SWP place of use downstream of the Banks Pumping Plant to the permits and license of the CVP. These changes are intended to facilitate three specific transfers/exchanges involving a total of up to 220,000 acre-feet of water. The petitions request the changes be effective through September 30, 2011.

The order is available for viewing online at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/applications/transfers\\_tu\\_orders/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_orders/)

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Greg Wilson at 341-5427 or [gwilson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gwilson@waterboards.ca.gov)

## **(2) Fishery Status**

(Salmonids, Steelhead and Sturgeon) - B. Oppenheim)

The first winter-run salmon of the season was salvaged at the Tracy Fish Facility, not at Skinner. NMFS is not requesting reduced exports so far, but the increase in monitoring and salvage indicates that it is time to monitor things closely. Spring-run surrogate releases from the Coleman Hatchery are starting to show-up in the trawls.

No steelhead have been seen in any of the trawls.

No green sturgeon have been detected at the water project export facilities this year or last year.

(Delta smelt and Longfin smelt) – FWS is monitoring the distribution and abundance of Delta smelt, but there are no concerns to date. DFG also has no current “concerns” about longfin. The majority are still west of the Delta, in S.F. Bay.

## **(3) Water Project Operations**

CVP – Keswick at 5800 cfs and going up to 7000 cfs. Folsom is at 3800 cfs and will go up to 7000 cfs in two more days. Goodwin is at 200 cfs. Jones PP at 4100 cfs and Fed share of San Luis is at 634 TAF.

SWP – Oroville at 1750 cfs. Clifton Court is at 6400 cfs . State share of San Luis at 580 TAF

Excess conditions in the Delta (per COA) declared from November 27 to current. Freeport is approx. 22,000 cfs now, and Delta Outflow is approx. 20,000 cfs.